## EARLSDON CUT OUT!

A LARGE PART OF THE E.C.H.O. AREA WILL NO LONGER BENEFIT FROM NEW CASH AID FROM THE GOVERNMENT FOLLOWING A RECENT CITY COUNCIL DECISION.

Following our report in April urging local community groups to apply for money for next year under Coventry's new Programme Authority status we have bad news. As we feared, the area of Earlsdon south of the Birmingham railway line has been excluded from the inner city area of benefit in a new boundary (based on evidence of depriva-tion from the 1981 Census returns) adopted last month by the City Council. Groups and organisations north of the railway line (running behind Westwood Road and Highland Road) in Hearsall and the older parts of Chapelfields can still apply, however. Money can be requested for economic schemes (to provide employment), environmental schemes or social schemes. In all cases, we are told, very little money will be available to pay for running costs such as for wages, rent, postage, etc. but schemes with a heavy capital cost element - for buildings, equipment etc. - may stand a better chance.

It seems that despite all the publicity and hullabaloo surrounding the Government's long-awaited announcement of Coventry's Programme Authority status the actual gains to the city are very small compared to what is needed. This year only 42 out of over 200 applications from community groups for cash aid were approved and many of those had the amount requested cut drastically. The same is likely to happen each year and the Government's emphasis on capital expenditure reduces the opportunities for providing employment in community projects. One



source informed E.C.H.O. that, with existing commitments, probably about  $\mathfrak{L}_2^1$  million only will be available for new schemes next year.

So our advice to local groups is to work out your schemes as thoroughly as possible and seek advice in preparing your applications which must be submitted BEFORE THE END OF JUNE (check precise closing date). For advice or more information contact John Payne, Dept. of Architecture and Planning tel: 25555, or Coventry Voluntary Service Council, Tudor House, Spon Street tel: 20381.

Meanwhile, we are pleased to report that, in the only scheme submitted from the E.C.H.O. area this year, Broadway Community Association have succeeded in their bid to obtain a grant of £3,220 for the development of youth provision at the Gilbert Richards Centre. (Details are given in our report of B.C.A. activities.)

## CAMPAIGN FOR LADIES

THE EARLSDON RESIDENTS' AND RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION HAS LAUNCHED A CAMPAIGN TO PRESS FOR THE PROVISION OF LADIES TOILETS IN THE CENTRE OF EARLSDON.



The Association is concerned at the City Council's apparent lack of interest in this problem and hopes to persuade Stan Taylor, Earlsdon's new councillor, to put pressure on the Council to make some provision. Mr. Sheehan, Chairman of the Association has drawn up a petition to be presented to the next meeting of the Council on 14th June. Many signatures have already been collected from users of the Earlsdon St. shops but of course the greater the support, the more chance of success. We urge all ECHO readers, especially women, to support this petition by signing it when asked or (even better) by contacting Mr. Sheehan (see below) to offer to collect signatures. We know that many people are very annoyed that such a basic amenity as ladies' toilets is not provided in a busy shopping centre the size of Earlsdon. Here is your chance to do something about it. In addition, the Ratepayers' and Residents' Asso-

In addition, the Ratepayers' and Residents' Asso ciation will be starting a petition to protest

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

## WILSON, WISE, BUTCHER.....?

9th June will see the constituency of Coventry South-West contested for the fourth time in its nine year history. It is the most marginal of Coventry's four seats and the only one to change hands in recent years.

For 15 of the last 19 years voters of the ECHO area have been represented by Labour M.P.s. In October 1964 Coventry solicitor William Wilson helped end 13 years of Tory rule and assist his namesake Harold into Downing Street by winning the old Coventry South seat from the Conservatives. On that occasion his majority was 1800, a margin reflected in Labour's slender majority of five seats in the House of Commons.

Two years later William Wilson extended his majority to a handsome 6500, and Labour continued in government with an improved majority.

years. Despite the arrival of Mr. Heath's Conservative administration Coventry once more returned three Labour M.P.s including Mr. Wilson, albeit with a majority reduced to 2200.

By the time Edward Heath's confrontation with the miners precipitated the next general election exercise their democratic right on 9th June. the Boundary Commissioners had been at work and decided that Coventry should now return four MPs rather than three. Earlsdon and Whoberley wards formed part of the new South-West seat whilst William Wilson was to fight the new South-East seat, so come what may the E.C.H.O. area would have a new M.P. The election of February 1974 showed no change from the Labour representation of the city but Audrey Wise held Coventry South-West by the close margin of only 500 votes. new Labour government had no overall majority so the nation went to the polls again only eight months later. In October 1974 Audrey Wise improved her hold on her seat to the margin of 2100.

Mrs. Wise is remembered for forcing concessions on the taxation provisions of her own Labour government in conjunction with Birmingham Perry Bar M.P. Jeff Rooker. This unusually successful act of rebellion by the two backbenchers is remembered as the 'Rooker-Wise' amendment. Whether or not the voters were impressed by this achievement, Audrey Wise suffered from the national swing against Labour in May 1979. John Butcher's victory with a majority of 5700 brought us Coventry's first Tory M.P. for 15 years and led the defeated Mrs. Wise to comment that she was "deeply sympathetic to the electors of Coventry South-West who will now suffer as a result of this election". Of course Mr. Butcher himself has done very well under Mrs. Thatcher, rising rapidly to the new post of Minister for the West Midlands.

For the 1983 general election there have been more has been transferred to the South-East con- year. stituency whilst the remainder is in South-West as part of the Earlsdon ward. The overall effect of these changes seems likely to strengthen

John Butcher's position. The three major parties have put forward candidates as follows: John Butcher - Conservative; sitting MP and minister

Dave Edwards - Labour; Coventry City councillor and Talbot convenor

Marjorie Lyle - S.D.P; a first-time candidate and a teacher by profession

The area is not likely to be fertile ground for the SDP/Liberal Alliance. The Alliance's best chance will probably be where there is an entrenched majority for one of the old parties. In seats where both Labour and Conservative candidates have a chance of victory people will be more inclined to stick to their traditional loyalties for fear of handing the seat to the old enemy on a plate.

June 1970 saw the third election in less than six It is doubtful whether voters have ever had such a clear-cut choice between such radically opposed policies as they do now. It is in the marginal seats of the West Midlands that this highly significant battle for the future direction of Britain may well be decided, and we urge all E.C.H.O. readers to take the opportunity to



### Zirkus on the road

Earlsdon-based group Zirkus are to record their debut single at Woodbine Studios, Leamington. It will be a 12" single with three tracks - 'Limbo Dancer', 'Pandamonium', and 'Animals in the Zoo', each track featuring a different vocalist.

Zirkus are now an eight piece (plus special effects man) after the departure of dancer Christine to pursue a solo career. They are forming their own limited company for marketing purposes rather than'sell' themselves to other companies.

The group will play three or four dates in June: a charity gig at the Royal Leamington Spa Centre on 2nd, an as yet unconfirmed support spot at the Lanchester Polytechnic in the middle of the month, and the Tech College Theatre in the Butts on 25th and 26th. Admission for the Tech concerts will be £1 and this will be the last chance to see Zirkus in Coventry until Christmas. They are hoping to further boundary changes so that part of Cheyles-arrange a British or German tour for later in the

> E.C.H.O. is keen to hear from any other bands in the area so please contact us with details of gigs etc. via the E.C.H.O. Box in Earlsdon Library.





## ABOUT E.C.H.O.

As you can see we are heading rapidly towards our 50th issue which we intend to celebrate with a bumper issue (normally reserved for Christmas!). We've had a number of ideas - special colour (yes! colour!) edition, photo-history of events in the area since 1979, part reprint of the original issue, anniversary party etc. If YOU have any ideas please let us know!

We now have a good team again putting E.C.H.O. together but badly need a graphic artist to do adverts etc. Please get in touch via the E.C.H.O. Box in Earlsdon Library.

People involved in this issue were:

Chris Boote Keith Bushnell Ann Groves Angela Maton Niall McChesney Graham Partridge Barry Smith Anne Wood





# may fayre

St. Mary Magdalen's May Fayre took place on Saturday 7th May, and was officially opened by Graham Partridge (of E.C.H.O. fame!) The heavy showers failed to dampen people's spirits, and our photographs show youngsters enjoying Maypole Dancing, Mini-Motorbikes, and even a refreshing icecream! Nearly 500 was raised towards the West End Project; to complete the building of the West end of the Church.



# VAL&JOHN. Broomfield Rd. P.O. Large selection of Bedding Plants

Fuschias \* Geraniums
Pelargonium cuttings

RESIDENTS' CAMPAIGN (continued from Front Page)

about the state of local pavements, particularly in the shopping areas. Whilst they do appreciate that some repairs have been carried out, the position generally is not good, and elderly people in particular are suffering. Moor Street and Clarendon Street have sustained damage from heavy lorries going up on to the pavements, and they intend to encourage Stan Taylor to press the Council for improvement.

A further improvement which the Association wishes to bring about is landscaping of the jetty between Poplar Road and Earlsdon Avenue North. One of our readers wrote to us on this subject recently, and the Association is looking for as much support as possible.

Please contact Mr. Sheehan at 22 Myrtle Grove, tel: 78034, if you wish to add your support.

# HAVE I KEAD INE FORESO. fully read and understand the forms before sign ing. If you are not happy with the forms, the Citizens Advice Bureau can give advice. It is never safe to sign a blank or partially

## Beware the Foot in the Door

The Citizens Advice Bureau deals with an average of 2,500 enquiries per month of which one-third concern consumer's problems. Recently there have been many complaints in connection with home improvement firms.

I thought the residents of this area might be interested in the following tips as the abundance of Victorian and Edwardian houses in Earlsdon and Chapelfields provide a fertile sales pitch for salesmen in the home improvements market. Companies selling double glazing, exterior stone cladding, loft and loft and cavity wall insulation, damp proof coursing and timber treatments regularly work the area, often preying on the inexperienced first time buyer or elderly home owners.

Home improvement companies often sell their products by canvassing from door to door. Not all doorstep salesmen are disreputable but they often use high pressure selling methods that are hard to resist. If you answer the door to someone who appears to be a salesman it is useful to ask yourself the following questions:

DO I WANT TO BUY THESE GOODS OR SERVICES? If the answer is 'No', say so before the caller has a chance to get his foot in the door - once inside it will be much harder to get rid of him.

HAVE I CHECKED HIS IDENTITY? Ask for an identity card. If in doubt do not let him in. If you In the coming months we hope to have articles by are really anxious, tell the police.

AM I BEING PRESSURED? Even if you are interested in a service or product, do not allow yourself to be pushed. The salesman may offer you a generous discount, he may tell you you've been specially selected to receive goods/services at a special price, that the offer is unrepeatable and will end that night. He has had time to rehearse and practise his patter - you may be taken unawares.

The salesman may stay at your home from around 5 pm to 11 pm so you 'sign' to get rid of him. He may try to make you feel sorry for him. Don't let him take advantage of your hospitality If you do not want what he is selling, say so.

A genuine salesman will not mind coming back at a later date if you want time to think or discuss the deal with a friend.

WOULD A DIFFERENT FIRM BE BETTER? Many firms give free estimates for work to be done - three estimates allow a good comparison.

CAN I AFFORD IT? CASH/CREDIT? Whether payment is to be cash or credit, signing 'on the dotted line' means you are agreeing to be legally Credit charges vary enormously. Check what the interest charges will be, the interest rate and number of payments. A bank loan may be a better deal.

HAVE I READ THE PAPERS? It is prudent to carefully read and understand the forms before sign-

completed form.

CAN I CHANGE MY MIND? The short answer is - not always! If an H.P. agreement or credit sale agreement of over £30 is signed in your home you have some legal protection. Look for a large red notice on the form which will tell you of your 'Rights of Cancellation'. If there is a right to cancel it must be done in writing within three clear days of receiving a second copy of the agreement through the post. If you rely on a telephone call to cancel the order you will have no proof of cancellation. Instead, write a letter, date it, send it recorded delivery and keep a

Personal loans, which many salesmen offer, do not have this three day 'cooling off' time. They are very difficult to revoke.

I hope this information is of use to readers. People at the Bureau are happy to help anyone with difficulaites - just call in

I hope this information is of use to readers. People at the Bureau (in Fleet House, Corporation St.) are happy to help anyone with difficulties: just call in on Mon, Wed, Fri 10 am - 4 pm; Tues 1 pm - 4 pm; Thurs 5.30 pm - 7 pm.

> Sandra Carrigan, (Citizens Advice Bureau), 24 Avondale Road, Earlsdon.

the C.A.B. covering a variety of topics of interest and concern to local people, from consumer to benefits to employment and so on. If you have any suggestions for subjects, please let us know via the E.C.H.O. Box in Earlsdon Library.

### Walking for Pleasure

Unemployed or just plenty of spare time? If you want to keep fit why not take a walk? No, I don't mean a stroll around the block, I mean a proper walk - through fields and farmland. Many people may not realise that a short bus ride or car journey to the city boundary will bring you to a wealth of public footpaths and bridleways, which allow the pedestrian to pass through woods and meadows, to explore the countryside and get close to all manner of wild animals - away from the ubiquitous motor car.

Walking around the local countryside is an activity suitable for all ages - and requires little in the way of special clothing. All you need is a pair of old (or even new) boots, just something to keep mud off your feet, a set of waterproof clothing (in case it rains) and a small ruck-sack for carrying extra garments, food, drink etc. If the idea of occasional informal walks, through neighbouring countryside, during the summer months, appeals to you, please contact me. Chris Boote, 31 Mayfield Road, Tel: 79114.

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Broadway Community Association has received a boost with the news that it has succeeded in winning a £3,220 grant applied for under Coventry's new Programme Authority status. The Association is working hard to build up community facilities at the Gilbert Richards Centre and the money will be spent on play, sports and electrical equipment for use mainly by young people in the area.

The Association are continuing their programme of events at the Centre in Broadway. On 21st May youngsters enjoyed a disco and on 25th June there will be a barbecue with live band and disco, and bar applied for.

Meanwhile, the Association are continuing to furnish the community rooms. The Co-op Own Label scheme has recently provided £300, which was very welcome indeed, though less than the Association had been led to expect. Tables and chairs have been purchased for one room and two rooms have been curtained. Unfortunately the quality of the work supplied by Briant Curtaining is a metter of concern to the Association, but members are hopeful of a satisfactory outcome.

As we went to press the Management Committee were hoping for a good turnout at the Annual General Meeting on 24th May where a new committee was due to be elected. More people are needed all the time to help the Association run events and activities and in fundraising. If you are interested please contact Ann Groves tel: 76015, David Murray, 85 Moor Street tel: 713219, or Mrs. Randle, 51 Mayfield Road.

## BAN

QUALITY FRUIT, VEGETABLES and FLOWERS

We have moved from Daventry Road to 60 EARLSDON STREET

## Gilbert Richards Centre



The Gilbert Richards Centre in Broadway was of ficially by the Lord Mayor on 28th April . Mrs. Richards, widow of the late Councillor Gilbert Richards was presented with a bouquet from Broadway Community Association (above) by Anita Haythorne and a silver rose bowl from Broadway Youth Club by Stephen King.

The Lord Mayor and Mrs. Richards admire the display of Community Association activities at the Centre (below).





#### "GIGANTIC GLASS AND CHINA SALE"

COME EARLY . . . BARGAINS GALORE AT ST. MARY MAGDALEN'S CHURCH HALL, CRAVEN STREET, ON SATURDAY 18th JUNE, COMMENCING 10.00 am In aid of funds for a flower festival to celebrate the Church's Golden Jubilee in 1984.

Following our article in the February issue that traced the history of motorcar production by the company founded by William Pilkington we now examine the more famous motorcycle side of the business in Osborne Road, Earlsdon (now Alpha Engineering). We are very grateful to Peter S. Clark for permission to use material from his account of his uncle's life - 'William Pilkington of Birmingham 1857-1928 - A Memoir'.

Rex was once one of the greatest names in the motorcycle industry; without a doubt they were excellent machines and technically ahead of most of their rivals.

At the National Show in the Crystal Palace grounds in 1900, a 13 h.p. Rex motorcycle was on view and distinguished itself by being the only machine in the exhibition to ascend a hill in the grounds without pedal assistance.

During the next two or three years other Rex motorcycles further established the company's name by winning races at the Crystal Palace track. The machines, amongst the earliest of racing motorcycles, relied on surface carburettors and direct belt drive and, quite often, on the supplementary pedalling gear. The engines had an unusual appearance because the cylinder barrel finning was square. Innovations which the Rex Company originated or were among the first to The models produced in 1903-4 changed little in foot-operated brake pedals, silencers cast with the cylinder barrel (a small 'beehive' in the exhaust port) and spring front forks. Also, it is believed that the original sample of the V-belt was made up in the Rex workshops.

The first Rex motorcycle catalogues appeared in 1901-2, and the company stuck to a policy of one model per season and below average prices with great success. The earliest model had its 13 hp engine mounted at an inclined angle and the second, appearing in 1902, rated as 2 hp and was the first Rex with a vertically-mounted engine.



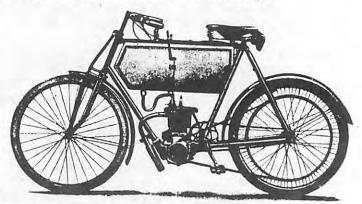
#### WANTED

Coventry & Warwickshire Astronomical Society require a qualified mechanical engineer to assist in servicing the mounting bearings of a large telescope (built by Cooke & Sons in 1925) housed in the Coventry Technical College Observatory.

We cannot offer remuneration - but the work would be interesting and unusual. Would suit a retired or unemployed person.

For more details please contact Rob Moseley, 70 Stanley Rd., Earlsdon, Tel: 76837.

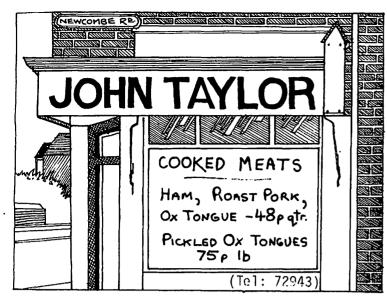
The machines were smart compared with the standards of the day. The forward part of the 'tank' was the surface carburettor supplying mixture by the U-shaped inlet pipe to an automatic inlet valve, which would not please modern designers, but considering the maximum speed was only about 30 mph, this did not matter much. Later on, the firm raised their price and took old motorcycles in part payment for new ones and it is interesting to note that at one time the new machines were sold at 50 guineas with an allowance of £25 for any old machine in part exchange.



appearance. They had single cylinder 23 or 31hp engines and looked more like pedal cycles than motorcycles with their typical bicycle frame, foot pedals and handlebars. Photographs show a narrow petrol tank suspended from the frame cross-bar, with the small engine underneath. Transmission to the rear wheel was via a rubber belt on the near side, and the foot pedals and chain were used to gain the necessary momentum for starting, with the aid of an exhaust valve lifter to reduce the compression. These early models had simple caliper brakes, fitted on the rim of the rear wheel only. Beyond the purchase price of 49 guineas, for an extra 10 guineas you could buy a Rex trailer or a 'forecarriage attachment' for 12 guineas.

(to be continued)





#### GIMLI THINGS

Linda Holmes and Pauline Smith started to think about earning a living from their mutual interest in craft goods in July last year, and from September onwards they started to sell their handmade cushions etc. at craft fairs, including one in Earlsdon Methodist Church Hall. Selling at craft fairs kept their costs low, but by December they were considering methods of selling their products professionally and starting up their own business.

Advice from a Small Firms Advisory Councillor in January this year gave the encouragement necessary to convince them that they had a viable business proposition, and they spent January to March making contacts with wholesalers, buying materials, and advertising for homeworkers. They have taken on three girls who do sewing for them at home now, and have twelve more on their books for when the business gets going.

They intend to sell by mail order rather than to have a shop, and a catalogue of the products will soon be available. They will also continue to sell from craft fairs and have started to hold craft parties in private houses. They have found premises at Unit 15, The Arches Industrial Estate Soon End.

The business will go under the name 'Gimli Things', named after a dwarf from Tolkien's 'Lord For those who are convinced that summers always of the Rings', and local residents may have already seen examples of the products in recent displays in the Coventry Provident Building Society in Earlsdon Street. At the moment their articles include cushions, tablecloths, aprons and kitchen linen in co-ordinated prints, and they hope to branch out into baby accessories as the business expands. Linda and Pauline are very particular about the quality and pattern of the material they use, and eventually hope to have their own materials designed and made up, so that they have exactly what they want for their co-ordinating product range. The products are all handmade and handfinished, and considering the quality are reasonable priced. Whilst there is a set range, Pauline and Linda are always ready to consider requests for individuals articles to be made up in different materials.

Gimli Things can be contacted on tel: 711174.

#### **New Councillor**

Following the local elections in May Earlsdon Ward has a new Councillor. Stan Taylor is a 34year-old lecturer in politics at Warwick University. He is married with two children, and has lived in Earlsdon for nine years.

As reported in last month's E.C.H.O., he believes that people in Earlsdon need to feel that their views are being considered by the City Council and that the area is not being ignored. He intends to hold regular surgeries for local peop-

Stan Taylor has been appointed as a member of the Social Services and Personnel and Administration Committees, while re-elected Whoberley Councillor Len Hilton is on the Leisure and Recreation and Public Works Committees.



## IT HAPPENED THIS MONTH

Looking at events during the month of June in the area in past years, amateur historian Bert Wilson's notes tell us that this month in 1847, two foot-races were run on Allesley Old Road over 120 yards, one between Saville and Thompson for a wager of £20, Saville winning by 12 yards, and the other for £2 between Brown and Edwin. After five false starts, Edwin won by eight yards.

In June 1856, to celebrate the peace of the Crimea War, Messrs. Spencer and Horsefall gave a dinner for their employees at the 'Bowling Green' in Earlsdon, a pub first mentioned in 1853.

used to be wonderful, severe June thunderstorms caused serious flooding in the area in 1917.

In 1951 in June, Lady Baden Powell took the salute at the parade of nearly 2,000 Girl Guides and Brownies on Spencer Park Recreation Ground.

June 1964 saw Coventry Police 'C' Division move out of their building in Arden Street into a new and larger station at Canley. No. 37 Arden St. had become a sub-Police Station and a place of detention for children in 1910. In 1949 the premises were rebuilt and enlarged. After the police left the Abbeyfield Society took over the building in 1966 and converted it into a home for the elderly, which was opened in March 1967.

Not too far back, in June of 1978 the main fortnight of events of the Earlsdon Village Festival took place throughout the area, to celebrate the first 125 years of Earlsdon's existence.

The EARLSDON VIDEO CENTRE opened in Providence St on Wednesday 18th May. The shop offers free membership, and hire of video cassettes is just £1.00 per 24 hours (VHS only). Current stock is around 300 titles but will soon be steadily increased as trade picks up. Opening hours are 9.30 am - 8.00 pm, Mon - Sat, and 12.00 noon -3.00 pm, 6.30 pm - 9.00 pm Sundays.

ANNE-MARIE'S on the corner of Moor Street and Warwick Street is at present holding a closingdown sale, due to the closure of the shop at the beginning of June.

## no daleks,thanks

A new venture has 'materialised' at 147a Westwood Road. THE TIME MACHINE is a shop for collectors of bygones, and more especially of vintage toys and dolls. Among the extensive stock can be found several hundred Dinky toys in original boxes along with splendid tin toys from the 1960's. The business, run by Paul and Hilary Kennelly, also offers advice on valuation and restoration of 'Juvenilia', the name given to this growing hobby. Also in stock are plastic hobby kits, paints and glues along with other gift lines and curios. As the name suggests, once you enter and see perhaps something from your own childhood it is like taking a trip in a time machine, but thankfully you won't meet any Daleks here.. ....or will you....?

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## «At your service.»

AJS VACUUM REPAIRS

A new repair service has been operating in the E.C.H.O. area since the end of February. AJS Vacuum Repairs of 34 Poplar Road can deal with all makes of commercial and domestic vacuum cleaners.

Allan Smith, who had been unemployed for 2½ years offers to visit people to repair equipment on their own premises, or to take theirs away for repair and leave a working cleaner if necessary. He stresses a speedy 'out-and-about' service as he feels that people don't like taking their cleaners to shops. He used to work for an electrical shop, and at the moment advertises around Earlsdon, although he hopes to expand soon.

THE CARING BABY SHOP

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Prams, Cots, Toys, Nursery Goods, Babywear (inc. premature and low weight by 'Babycare')

See our Range of Quality Nearly New Goods

42 EARLSDON STREET

Tel: 711767



We are grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Gorsuch for lending us this photograph. Mrs. Gorsuch (nee Underwood) tells us that it shows her grandfather at the extreme left engaged, she believes, in the building of Hearsall Lane.